

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 087641
ORIGIN ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-14
CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-12 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03
NASA-02 NEA-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 PA-02 DOE-15 CEQ-01
OES-07 SS-15 ICA-20 SSO-00 NSCE-00 NRC-07 SIG-03
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P 052130Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY

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USSALTTWO/CTB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: APRIL 5 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR

1."NEUTRONBOMB CONTINUES TO DOMINATE PRESS PLAY. NEW
YORK TIMES (BURT) REPORTS THAT PRESIDENT CARTER IS
REVIEWING HIS DECISION AND SUGGESTS THAT PRESIDENT IS UNDER
VARIETY OF PRESSURE TO MODIFY HIS POSITION. HE QUOTES
ADMINISTRATION SPOKESMEN AS SAYING NO DECISION HAS YET
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PAGE 02 STATE 087641

BEEN REACHED, BUT REPORTS THAT SEVERAL ADMINISTRATION
OFFICIALS HAVE PRIVATELY CONFIRMED YESTERDAY'S STORY THAT
SYSTEM HAS BEEN SCRAPPED. TIMES STORY CITES SENATORS
NUNN AND BAKER, SECRETARY OF DEFENSE BROWN AND FRG FOREIGN
MINISTER GENSCHER AMONG PRESSURE SOURCES. IN WASHINGTON
POST STORY (PINCUS), BONN GOVERNMENT IS REPORTED AS
ANNOUNCING LONG-AWAITED ENDORSEMENT OF WEAPON. WALL STREET

JOURNAL EDITORIAL ECHOES REPUBLICAN SENATORS VIEW THAT A "PRESIDENTIAL DECISION AGAINST THE NEUTRON BOMB WOULD BE AN OMINOUS TURN IN CURIOUS CHAIN OF EVENTS." BALTIMORE SUN (TREWHITT) PREDICTS AT MINIMUM PRESIDENT WILL DEFER PRODUCTION ER SYSTEM "UNTIL PROSPECTS FOR SUMMITRY AND ARMS-CONTROL ARE BETTER DEFINED." SUN STORY SUGGESTS

INTEREST IN SUMMIT MEETING STRONG FACTOR IN DECISION. STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS ARE QUOTED AS SAYING THERE IS LITTLE LIKELIHOOD OF CHANGE IN DECISION; PROBLEM IS HOW TO PORTRAY DECISION. IN WASHINGTON POST STORY, PINCUS POINTS OUT NEUTRON WEAPONS ARE ARTILLERY SHELLS AND NOT BOMBS, AND NEW LANCE WARHEAD IS TO REPLACE 20-YEAR-OLD NUCLEAR SHELLS CONSTRUCTED WITH 1950 TECHNOLOGY, NOW DEPLOYED IN EUROPE. ENERGY DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS ARE QUOTED AS SAYING "SOMETHING STILL WILL HAVE TO BE DONE TO MODERNIZE NATOS NUCLEAR ARTILLERY."

2. IN PARIS DISPATCH TO NEW YORK TIMES, FRANCE IS REPORTED AS BLOCKING OPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS ON NEW SAFEGUARDS FOR US NUCLEAR FUEL DELIVERIES TO EUROPE. RECENT NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION ACT OF 1978 IMPOSES DEAD-LINE OF SUNDAY FOR CUTOFF OF US FUEL SUPPLIES IF NEGOTIATIONS NOT OPENED. ISSUE NOW REFERRED TO COMMON MARKET HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING FRIDAY IN COPENHAGEN.

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PAGE 03 STATE 087641

3. AVIATION WEEK HAS ARTICLE ON SOVIET IMPROVEMENT IN ICBM ACCURACY, BASING CONTENTION THAT "US FORCE IN JEOPARDY SOONER THAN ANTICIPATED" ON DEFENSE DEPT. ESTIMATES "WITHHELD FROM THE CONGRESS." ARTICLE CITES SIX USSR ICBM TEST LAUNCHES FROM TYURATAM TO IMPACT AREA IN KAMCHATKA PENINSULA, INCLUDING FOUR WITH COLD-LAUNCH SS-18 AND TWO OF HOT-LAUNCH SS-19, CLAIMS ACCURACY APPROACHED 0.1 NAUTICAL MILES CEP FOR BOTH TYPES. ARTICLE CRITICIZES SALT TWO PROTOCOL IN THIS CONNECTION AS PRECLUDING U.S. DEPLOYMENT OF NEW ICBMS EITHER IN SILOS OR IN MOBILE MODE TO INSURE IMPROVED SURVIVABILITY. VANCE

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Draft Date: 05 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition History: n/a
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Subject: APRIL 5 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL INTEREST LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR
TAGS: PARM, SOPN
To: GENEVA USSALTTWO
Type: TE
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